

Good News Daily

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Sunday, August 4

2 Samuel 6:12-23 *And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; she despised him in her heart. (v.16 NIV)*

When we make a port of call at the church on Sunday mornings, God desires that our on-shore excursion be a meaningful worship experience. Too often, however, there are more warships observable in the inner harbor of our souls than worship. In fact, the armada of dueling forces arguing over music and drama and dance and liturgy is churning up quite a wake on the sea of North American Christianity.

So why is it that we have such a problem with people who employ body language as a way of ascribing worth to God? Bi-lingual capability is an asset in corporate America and in the public school environment. It's a pre-requisite for missionaries. So why is it viewed with suspicion in the church?

As David escorted the Ark of the Lord back to Jerusalem, he was overcome with joy and praise. Mouthing the sacred prayers, looking pious, and raising his hands wasn't enough. With animated abandon, he freely and joyfully worshiped God. Sadly, his wife refused to give him the benefit of the doubt for what she didn't understand.

May we be more accepting and willing to experiment.

Psalms 93, 96; Romans 14:7-12; John 1:43-51

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for the Church of the Province of South East Asia, The Most Revd Ng Moon Hing - Archbishop of South East Asia & Bishop of West Malaysia

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Christopher Episcopal Church, Rantoul, The Rev Steven Thorp, Vicar; Choma Mission, Tanzania, Rev. Gershon Charles The Parish of Christ The Redeemer and St. Peter, San Juan de Miraflores, Peru, The Rev. Misael Varillas, Regional Vicar.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Jenny Pitts' birthday.

Monday, August 5

2 Samuel 7:1-17 *"He said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." (v.2b)*

Most churches that enter into building programs have a good reason to ask for money. Either the old facility is just too old to handle the demands of a contemporary congregation's needs, or the congregation is experiencing a level of numerical growth that requires additional space.

In the case of King David, there was another reason to enter into a capital expansion campaign. The homes of the worshipers were a whole lot nicer than the camel skin tent that housed the holy place of God. David thought that God was entitled to more than He was getting.

There's a timeless principle here. The standard of living we enjoy provides a backdrop for our level of participation in the church budget. God is the source of all we have and is therefore entitled to more than a token gratuity. Our gifts to the Lord through the ministry of our local church should be an amount that requires us to skimp elsewhere.

There are many types of giving of our gifts to the Lord. We can give our time, our talents, our prayers, our service, and we can give of our money. All that is important. But what God wants more than anything else is our hearts filled with love for Him and for each other.

Psalm 80; Acts 18:1-11; Mark 8:11-21

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ogbaru (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Samuel Ezeofor; Bondo (*Kenya*) The Rt Revd David Kodia; Kasai - Mbujimayi (*Congo*) The Rt Revd Marcel Kapinga

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Greg Shaw, husband of The Rev Mary Christine "Mollie" Ward, Bloomington; Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Can. Robert B. and Terry Koehler, San Antonio, TX; and of the Rev. Charles J. and Gina Reischman, Littleton, CO.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Zach Davingman's birthday.

Tuesday, August 6

2 Samuel 7:18-29 *Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: "Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?"* (v.18)

David isn't the perfect role model that he is sometimes portrayed to be like a Van Gogh painting—he looks better from a distance than when you start examining the details. But, in spite of his moral indiscretions and poor parenting skills, he has an enviable humility toward God. He is never quite able to get over the fact that God has showered him with blessing after blessing. Like someone walking in the warm rain on summer night, David refuses an umbrella. He would rather experience the full impact of God's goodness being outpoured on him. And the reason? He didn't feel entitled or deserving.

How about you? If you're honest, are you still blown away by the good things God has allowed to come into your life (or that of your family)? Or have you begun to take for granted your health, your income, and your more than adequate home? Why not take some time today to compile a list of all God has drenched you with

(that you really aren't all that worthy of). But don't stop with the list. Let your lips borrow David's language and your heart his humility.

Psalm 78:1-39; Acts 18:12-28; Mark 8:22-33

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ogbia (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd James Oruwori; Bor (*South Sudan*) The Most Revd Ruben Akurdid Ngong; Umzimvubu (*Southern Africa*) The Rt Revd Sitembele Mzamane

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Feast of Title, Church of the Redeemer, Cairo; Feast of Title, Christ Church, Springfield.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Debbie & Roger Thomas' wedding anniversary.

Wednesday, August 7

2 Samuel 9:1-13 *And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table; he was lame in both feet. (v.13)*

From a wasted place
in a lifeless land of fear
(a desert of desolation)
a lame lad crawls
to a place of grace
in a palace of belonging
(a table of abundance).

The son of a prince
who'd never be king
by the king's invitation comes.

Without fanfare
(but no longer afraid),
he is lavished with love
deserved by another.

Psalm 119:97-120; Acts 19:1-10; Mark 8:34—9:1

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ogbomoso (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Matthew Osunade; Botswana (*Central Africa*) The Rt Revd Metlhayotlhe Rawlings Beleme; Brandon (*Canada*) The Rt Revd William Cliff

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Grant us the grace of your holy spirit to devote our heart to you.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Emily Lavikoff's birthday.

Thursday, August 8

2 Samuel 11:1-27 *In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army.* (v.1)

My real estate friend reminds me that there are three keys to profiting from one's property. The first is location, the second is location, and the third is location. But location is also a key to making a sound spiritual investment.

King David lost his shirt (literally) because he wasn't in the location where he should have been. After Palestine's rainy winter season, kings were expected to accompany their troops into battle. But Israel's popular king wasn't in the field with his army; he was at home in Jerusalem. Because he was where he shouldn't have been, he did what he shouldn't have done.

Just as David found himself vulnerable to temptation by being in the wrong place at the wrong time, we, too, can make the same mistake. Unless we pay careful attention to the situations we put ourselves in, we may have to pay a big price. When we disregard the warnings in God's word and the flashing neon signs of His Holy Spirit, we are setting ourselves up for disaster.

Psalms 83, 145; Acts 19:11-20; Mark 9:2-13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ogoni (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Solomon Gberegbara; Brasilia (*Brazil*) The Rt Revd Maurício Jose Araujo De Andrade; Brazzaville (*Congo*) The Rt Revd Molanga Jean Botola

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Mark S. and Kathleen Winward, Camp Lejeune, NC.

Friday, August 9

2 Samuel 12:1-14 *"You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel."* (v.12)

When I was a little kid, my mom could tell when I was shading the truth or hiding a devious deed. "Be sure your sins will find you out!" she'd say.

I didn't know it at the time, but that is scriptural. The Bible repeatedly warns us that sin (like a cancer) grows. It has a way of escaping from closets. It refuses to sign an affidavit insisting on silence. When we sin, we may think it's just a private matter. We may naively believe no one will ever find out. But because every sin we commit is ultimately a trespass against the holiness of God, God knows even when others don't.

David learned the hard way. Rather than confessing his sin right away, nearly a year went by before Nathan confronted him. The fruit of his adultery had been born. And now David was called to bear the public shame of the private pain he'd covered up. Even when a sin doesn't result in a baby, it does result in a life of its own.

The moral of the story is this: Be quick to confess when you fail. Accept God's forgiveness, but call on His grace to embrace the inevitable fallout.

Psalm 88; Acts 19:21-41; Mark 9:14-29

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ogori-Magongo (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Festus Davies; Brechin (*Scotland*) The Rt Revd Andrew Swift; Katakwa (*Kenya*) The Rt Revd John Okude Omuse

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Suzanne, wife of The Rev. Dr. John F. Wall, West Columbia, SC

ST. MATTHEW'S: Jack Schaeffer's birthday.

Saturday, August 10

2 Samuel 12:15-31 *So David mustered the entire army and went to Rabbah, and attacked and captured it. (v.29)*

A year had passed. The time when kings go out to war was here again. David had learned his lesson. It had been a costly lesson. The king wasn't walking the palace rooftop on a warm spring night scanning the skyline for bathing beauties, that's for sure. He was in a tent on the battlefield miles from home with his troops. And the Lord honored his obedience.

There's encouragement here for all of us. Failure is only truly failure when we fail to learn from our mistakes. As much as we grieve the mistakes we've made in the past, we can't undo them. Gratefully, when we confess our sins to God, He forgives us. The confessed wrongs can become stepping-stones to a higher level of living. The secret is to quit rationalizing our past mistakes and own up what God knows is true. In other words, quit lingering in the location of regret and find the location of fresh starts.

Remember. Location, location, location.

Psalms 87, 90; Acts 20:1-16; Mark 9:30-41

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ohaji / Egbema (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Chidi Collins Oparaojiaku; Brisbane (*Australia*) The Most Revd Phillip John Aspinall, The Rt Revd Jeremy Greaves, The Rt Revd Ian Keese Lambert, The Rt Revd John Roundhill, The Rt Revd Cameron Venables

DIOCESAN CYCLE: I am here abroad, I am here in need, I am here in pain, I am here in straits, I am here alone. O God, aid me -- *Celtic Charm.*

by Greg Asimakoupoulis

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Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Margret L., Allan H., James G.

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Daniel T., Justin P.

Pray for those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Barb W., and Margaret P.

Pray for: The Diocese of Tabora, Anglican Church of Tanzania, The Rt. Rev. Elias Chakupewa, the clergy and people. The Missionary Diocese of Peru, The Rt. Rev. Alejandro Mesco. Fr. Kari Marcelle, the clergy and people of Holy Trinity St. Vincent. Fr. Dave and all clergy, for whom we light the candle on the west side of the Altar.